

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-06

EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-09 AF-06 /054 W

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R 151840Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5894

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SCUL, US, GE

SUBJECT: US-GDR COOPERATION RE UNESCO SPONSORSHIP OF
BROOKLYN MUSEUM ART EXHIBIT

REF: PARIS 0977

1. GDR DEPUTY PERMREP, KLAUS GOLDENBAUM, TOLD DELOFF IN JANUARY 14 MEETING (SEE REFTEL) THAT HE STILL AWAITING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT ON FOLLOW-UP STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN WITH US TO OBTAIN UNESCO SPONSORSHIP OF EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE ART EXHIBIT ENVISAGED FOR LATE 1976-EARLY 1977 IN US BY BOTHNER (BROOKLYN MUSEUM) IN COOPERATION WITH EAST GERMAN EXPERT (DR. WENIG) WHO WOULD WRITE EXHIBIT CATALOGUE.

2. GOLDENBAUM STRESSED THAT, CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION APPARENTLY CONVEYED BY BOTHNER TO US NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO, THE IDEA OF POSSIBLE US-GDR COLLABORATION ON THIS PROJECT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT A GDR INITIATIVE AND INDICATED THAT GDR WILLING TO PURSUE THIS POSSIBILITY ONLY TO EXTENT THAT US RESPONDED WITH PRECISELY MATCHING RECIPROCAL INTEREST AND SUPPORT.

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3. INDEED, GDR DEPUTY PERMREP SAID THAT BOTHNER HAD INITIATED ACTION BY VISIT TO EAST BERLIN IN MID-OR LATE-

1974 WHEN HE DISCUSSED PROJECT WITH GDR DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE (LOFFLER), THEN AGAIN FOLLOWED UP BY BOTHNER IN DECEMBER 1974 IN PARIS WITH SOVIET (YURI TURCHENKO WHO HEADS UNESCO MUSEUMS DIVISION. TURCHENKO APPARENTLY SENT LETTER TO GDR AND US NATIONAL COMMISSIONS ASKING THEIR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR UNESCO "PATRONAGE" I.E., SPONSORSHIP TO EXTENT OF NOMINAL BUT NOT FINANCIAL BACKING.

4. GOLDENBAUM AGREED WITH DELOFF THAT IT BEST AT THIS POINT TO AWAIT FURTHER REACTIONS FROM RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AND ESPECIALLY TO HAVE BOTHNER'S AND WENIG'S VIEWS ON EXTENT OF OFFICIAL US-GDR BACKING DESIRED BEFORE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL COOPERATION. GOLDENBAUM AGREED TO DELOFF SUGGESTION OF WORKING LUNCH WITH BOTHNER AND WENIG WHEN LATTER VISIT PARIS DURING JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 5 TIME FRAME.

5. GOLDENBAUM INDICATED THAT GDR VIEWED THEIR DETACHING WENIG TO ACCOMPANY BOTHNER ON CURRENT VISIT TO EGYPT AND SUDAN AS A "PRELIMINARY STEP." DELOFF INDICATED US GENERALLY PRE-DISPOSED TO FAVOR BILATERAL COOPERATION IN CULTURAL MATTERS ALTHOUGH THIS RELATIVELY "UNEXPLORED GROUND" IN PARTICULAR CONTEXT OF NEW US-GDR RELATIONSHIP.

6. COMMENT: DELOFF LEFT WITH STRONG IMPRESSION THAT APPARENTLY ENERGETIC EFFORTS BY BOTHNER TO OBTAIN GDR COLLABORATION MAY HAVE BEEN MIS-READ BY GDR AS SIGNALLING ENTHUSIASTIC USG INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT. PERMDEL WOULD SUGGEST CLOSE DEPARTMENT CONSULTATION WITH BOTHNER AND US NATIONAL COMMISSION TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING.

7. PERMDEL WOULD APPRECIATE PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN REFTEL BY JANUARY 30, AND CONFIRMATION THAT TURCHENKO LETTER CITED ABOVE HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY US NATIONAL COMMISSION, IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR ANTICIPATED DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTHNER AND WENIG.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS01245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750016-0177
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750150/aaaabrqr.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 0977
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-GDR COOPERATION RE UNESCO SPONSORSHIP OF BROOKLYN MUSEUM ART EXHIBIT
TAGS: PORG, SCUL, US, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006